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TEACHERS' SALARIES.

The teachers of the Astoria public schools presented a petition to the board of school directors asking for an increase in their salaries. In the petition they set forth that the salaries paid in Astoria are not as high in proportion as paid in other cities of the state, compared to the extra cost of living. The petition is published in this issue and sets forth plainly and concisely their contention, backed up by indisputable facts.

As to what difference there may be, if any, in the cost of living in Astoria, as compared with Albany, Salem, Eugene or Portland is not the only reason why the prayer of the petitioners should be granted. The great trouble is to convince the five members of the school board that the teachers are not paid a salary commensurate with the most of living and the increasing duties devolved by reason of constantly increased attendance of the schools, requiring considerable additional time and a corresponding increase in the duties, compelling all of the teachers to work overtime if the efficiency of the public schools is to be maintained.

It is evident that the board of school directors is not familiar with the amount of work devolving upon the school teachers of the city. They imagine that all a teacher has to do is to maintain order and listen to recitation of lessons. Every teacher in the public school has to familiarize himself or herself with every lesson in order to be successful in inculcating it into the minds of the pupils, and some times have to build minds with sufficient capacity to digest the lessons. This work is done nights, Saturdays and even Sundays, and many teachers are compelled to work until midnight in preparatory work for the next day.

If a teacher is competent to teach in the public schools of Astoria, which are considered equal to the best, they are certainly entitled to living wages. There are other expenses besides board and room that a teacher has to take into consideration. She must dress genteely, as to do otherwise would be to set a bad example to the scholars. She must subscribe for the daily papers, educational magazines and periodicals; she must board in first-class families to avoid the slimy tongue of scandalmongers, who are ever ready to cast insinuations and reflections upon any honest young lady. The clerk or the laborer can rent a cheap room and board at a restaurant, at the same time they are receiving more wages than is paid to the teachers.

The common council long ago recognized the fact that the wages paid to city officials was not commensurate with the increased cost of living and the salaries of every city and county official have been raised not less than 25 per cent. Rents are nearly 50 per cent higher in Astoria than they were 10 years ago, and boarding houses are compelled to pay more for provisions and have been compelled to increase the price of board. Everything has increased in price in Astoria, except the salaries of teachers.

The public school teachers do more to instill true principles of morality; duty to home and as citizens, than the parents of the children do. There is no one else to take their places along these lines, and they certainly should be paid salaries that will enable them at least to live respectably, even if they don't lay up anything for old age. The best years of their lives are devoted to preparing themselves for the arduous duties devolving upon public educators, and at the present wages paid, if they taught school all their lives they could not have up enough to pay one-half the expense incurred in acquiring their education.

The petition of the teachers is just and reasonable and is not only entitled to the consideration of the school board, but if the matter were submitted to the tax payers, there is no doubt but the request would be granted. The tax payers, the parents of children appreciate the grand and noble efforts of the teachers, more than the board of directors do. The tax payers at their next meeting should authorize the board to comply with the request of the petitioners. The better wages paid the more proficient the public school system. This obtains in every avenue

of life and employers always pay wages in accordance with the results obtained.

STATE-MAKING PROJECTS.

The state-making mania we have always with us. Pressure on congress for the admission of new states will probably never cease until the material out of which such commonwealths can be created is definitely exhausted. New Mexico and Arizona have been seeking statehood for the last 30 years. Oklahoma and the Indian territory—probationers of briefer standing—are also clamoring to be taken into the union. Congress has so far turned a deaf ear to the appeals of these four territories, being unable to agree on an admission act which would satisfy all interests. The present congress or the congress after will probably admit Oklahoma and the Indian territory as one state and New Mexico, with or without Arizona, as another. Such a compromise may stem for a time the pressure for new states. But it will only check it. For Arizona, if left a territory, will continue to urge its claims, and other statehood projects are likely to be launched from time to time as new mergers of territory are suggested by changing political and geographical alignments.

Recent dispatches from Washington have announced that a new and rather curious statehood measure will be presented at the next session of congress. It contemplates the creation of a new southern commonwealth in the heart of the Appalachian region. Eastern Tennessee, Southeastern Kentucky and Southwestern Virginia are to be joined to make a homogeneous mountain state, with a population of common characteristics and interests and of common political convictions. We are told that the new state project is supported by the four republican representatives in congress from the territory indicated, whose people, it is reported, are eager to cut loose from their present state allegiances and to found a new community of their own. In ideas, feelings and modes of life these areas have, in fact, little in common with the states in which they are at present politically contained. They, with West Virginia and Western North Carolina, were the stronghold of southern loyalty during the civil war. They furnished thousands of soldiers to the union army, and since the close of the war have been overwhelmingly republican in politics. Political motives undoubtedly inspire this newest statehood project. Yet it does not lack a certain basis of logic, for it aims at severing associations which are artificial and onerous and at bringing together in one commonwealth a people united by the strongest social and political ties.

The new state would have a population of between 700,000 and 800,000—a little smaller than that of West Virginia. Its projectors have not gone so far as to select a state name, though they would probably be inclined, in making that choice, to revive the memory of the shortlived state of Franklin, which covered a part of the same area. But there need be no hurry about that. The federal constitution provides that no state shall be erected out of the territory of an existing state except by the consent of that state's legislature. The legislatures of Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky would all have to co-operate in creating the proposed mountain commonwealth, and the day when such co-operation will be given is long distant. No state likes to surrender territory or population, and to secure the consent of three states to their own mutilation seems out of the question. No harm can come from urging, either in or out of congress, a piece of surgery such as Virginia suffered when she lost West Virginia. But that separation was accomplished under the stress of war. The probability of similar readjustment of southern state boundaries, is, under present conditions, excessively remote.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

Epitome of Anecdotes and Incidents With Comments By a Layman.

It is time to inquire if the Standard Oil Company own the entire city of Astoria. We hate to have to sell the foundation of the new court house for old junk, but it begins to look like it.

Just when the coal man begins to loosen his grip along comes the strawberry at something like a dollar per berry.

If you start out to play golf this kind of a day you want to find out before you start whether or not your caddy can swim.

The Young Man (with some embarrassment)—There is one question you haven't asked me yet, Mr. Harp. You haven't wanted to know whether or not I think I can make a living for your daughter.

The Other Man—That isn't necessary, Henry. She'll see that you make the living, all right, if she's at all like her mother—and I think she is.

The Washington Star asserts that beefsteak is served cheaper in Europe than it can be in Chicago, but neglects to explain whether the credit belongs to the beef trust or the waiters' union.

We should attach more importance to the New York World's ap-

prehensions that President Roosevelt is a candidate for re-election if The World had not been quite as confident that the Hon. Alton B. Parker was destined to defeat Roosevelt last year.

Not having heard anything from him for over a week, we take it some one has seen his duty and chloroformed Dr. Ossler.

Mrs. Chadwick should not object to a ten-years' retirement. It will take that long to bring on a fresh crop of suckers.

The report of a probable Indian uprising in the neighborhood of the rough rider's hunting expedition indicates that a few war correspondents have smuggled themselves into the Indian country for the occasion.

And presently some good soul over-stuffed with conscientious scruples will arise to question the propriety of the action of the church of Rome in receiving back as a gift the stolen sacred cope purchased by the worldly Mr. Morgan with funds earned otherwise than in the Lord's service.

Say, talk about October For your melancholy days, And the things that make you sober In a dozen different ways; It can't compare with April When you land upon the rocks When the berry's on the market And it's fifty cents a box.

PERSONAL MENTION.

William Winters of Ilwaco was in the city yesterday.

Hon. Sig Sichel of Portland was in the city yesterday.

M. H. Wright of Los Angeles is registered at the Central.

Archie Jennings of Tillamook is visiting friends in the city.

E. L. Buford of San Francisco is registered at the Occident.

Dan W. Evans of Portland was in the city yesterday on business.

Knute Peterson, who has been employed at Ft. Canby has returned to Astoria.

E. D. Baker of Mason, Ehrman & Co. of Portland was in the city yesterday on business.

Miss Nellie and Margaret Busey left yesterday morning on a visit with friends in Portland.

Sylvester Farrel of Portland was in the city attending a meeting of the pilot commissioners.

M. F. Hazen of Warren is in the city visiting his son, Capt. Hazen of the steamer M. F. Hazen.

H. T. Findley of Portland was in the city yesterday and will leave this morning for Tillamook.

A. A. Green, dramatic critic of the Oregonian, passed through Astoria yesterday en route to Seaside.

T. S. Cowing, who spent a few days at Seaside returned to his home in Oregon City yesterday morning.

Mrs. John Steiner and family will leave in a few days for North Yakima to join her husband, who is engaged in business there.

Last Hope Vanished.

When leading physicians said that W. M. Smithart, of Peking, Ia., had incurable consumption, his last hope vanished; but Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds, kept him out of his grave. He says: "This great specific completely cured me, and saved my life. Since then, I have used it for over 10 years, and consider it a marvelous throat and lung cure." Strictly scientific cure for Coughs, Sore Throats or Colds; sure preventive of Pneumonia. Guaranteed, 50c and \$1.00 bottles at Chas. Rogers' drug store. Trial bottle free.

More White Pine cough syrup has been sold in Astoria this winter than any other kind, because it gives instant relief. The Owl and Eagle drug store are sole agents for all the best goods.

Pears'

Everyone admires a clear complexion. It's an open secret that Pears' Soap has brought the glow of health to millions of fair faces.

Sold in America and every other country.

The Tired Traveler is ever happy to find a comfortable stopping place. Where to put up is the prevalent question after a long journey. You can solve the problem in Astoria by going to the

PARKER HOUSE

Whose genial host, Mr. T. J. Broemser, is an experienced hotel man and who on April 1 took charge of this popular hostelry and has inaugurated a new feature to the house by opening the dining room in connection with the hotel and is now able to give his patrons board and lodgings, the best in Astoria, for \$1 and \$1.25 per day. Satisfaction guaranteed.

Rooms at 25, 50, 75 and \$1. Free 'buss to and from the hotel.

T. J. BROEMSER.

WE JUST WANT TO TELL YOU



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THAT OUR
Spring Suits,
Top Coats and
Rain Coats

have arrived and we can undoubtedly show you the swelle in Astoria at from

\$10.00

to

\$30.00

Everything guaranteed to give entire satisfaction or money refunded.

IN OUR
Furnishing
Goods
Department

you will find everything that is

New, Neat and Nobby.

HATS

New shapes and colors

\$1.00 to \$5.00

P. A. STOKES

THE DRESSY SHOP FOR DRESSY MEN.

TAX EMPLOYES.

If Merchants Are to Be Taxed, Why Not the Clerks.

Astoria, April 11.

Editor Morning Astorian:

I am not built on the plan of Carnegie or Rockefeller, with millions to throw at the birds, but while they are flinging their millions I am willing to hold myself up as a sacrifice and fling advice free gratis. Now for business. You see the council of the great city of Astoria is desirous of acquiring some of the earnings of the business men, to help out, and how to accomplish this feat without treading on the business men's corns is what keeps the councilmen awake nights.

Now this problem is dead easy. Just as easy as falling off a log. Make a base rate for each business and so much additional for each employe in the establishment and you have it. This base rate should allow two persons to an establishment for the reason that although one might attend to all the business done still one has to be on deck while the other goes to dinner. Now, Mr. Curtis, you know it wouldn't look pretty to lock up every time you get hungry, even if business wasn't rushing. Yours truly, EX-MERCHANT.

Spring and Summer Hats

Are in demand with the approach of Easter. There need be no question as to where you should buy your new hat, if you have visited our millinery department, where we have on display an exclusive line of the very

LATEST STYLES.

A competent milliner, recently engaged by us, is in charge of the department. It is worth something to have a lady, whose experience has been gained in the leading retail and wholesale millinery establishments, show you just the right hat. It is worth more to have that same competent milliner supervise alterations or suggest just the right trimmings for that hat which you intend to have finished.

TO ORDER

But don't forget that it will pay you to come early. Not merely because styles may be picked, but because during the last week before Easter our help is naturally at work early and late, and you may want your hat finished in time.

THE PRICES ARE RIGHT

Too, and the millinery department is on the second floor in a comfortable, cozy room, set apart for that purpose. No trouble to show goods.

The BEE HIVE

First National Bank of Astoria
ESTABLISHED 1886
Capital and Surplus \$100,000

PATTON'S
SUN PROOF PAINT

Lasts Longer and Looks Better.

Guaranteed for 5 years.

For sale by

B. F. ALLEN & SON

The Palace Cafe.

The Best Restaurant.

Regular Meals, 25c.
Everything the Market Affords.
Sunday Dinners a Specialty.

Palace Catering Co.



Are your spirits drooping? Do you feel that tired feeling? Does your appetite need coaxing? Then your blood is poor. That is nature's way of telling you that you need our

ALTI-TONE

It is an ideal tonic, bracing, strengthening and exhilarating. It purifies the blood, tones up the system and will make you feel like yourself again in a week or so.

FRANK HART, Druggist.

SOLE AGENT

Corner 14th and Commercial Sts.

ASTORIA IRON WORKS

JOHN FOX, Pres. and Supt. A. L. FOX, Vice President, Treasurer
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Designers and Manufacturers of THE LATEST IMPROVED

CANNING MACHINERY, MARINE ENGINES AND BOILERS. COMPLETE CANNERY OUTFITS FURNISHED.

CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED.

Foot of Fourth Street, ASTORIA, OREGON.